



AUDUBON'S WARBLER

Vol. 37 No8 - NOVEMBER 2008
Newsletter of Kern Audubon Society
A chapter of National Audubon Society
www.kernaudubonsociety.org

Kern Audubon Gathering

TUES. NOVEMBER 4, 2008 - 7:00pm

Join us at Kern Supt of Schools, 17th & L Sts.

Downtown Bakersfield (Parking lot: 18TH & K)

The Big Picture in a Small Frame: the Natural History of Kern County



**Alison Sheehey, Outreach Coordinator
Audubon Ca's Kern River Preserve**

An excellent program is planned for the Nov. 4th meeting as we learn about the natural history of Kern County from its beginnings: geology, tectonics, paleontology, Floristic Provinces, Native Americans, early settlers ...to the incredible diversity of flora and fauna in our modern day. This whirlwind journey is the result of 20 years of reconstructing the pieces on why this region is so diverse. Alison Sheehey's presentation is an amalgamation of searches of literature, museum collections, interviews with the experts, and her own remarkable field work. Alison's program will be highlighted by her marvelous photography!

Alison Sheehey is the Outreach Coordinator for Audubon California's Kern River Preserve, where she edits the website <http://kern.audubon.org> and newsletter, develops educational materials, leads field trips and coordinates four nature festivals each year. She moved to the westside of Kern County in 1980 and lives in the Kern River Valley. Her deep appreciation of all things Kern began with explorations of the desert environs of the Temblor Range (the western border of Kern County) where she fell in love with the intricacies of its geology, flora and fauna. Seeing beauty in every natural niche is one of the many talents of "Nature Ali", who is also a talented photographer. She has been a member of the Audubon Society since 1985, and is a former president of the Kern chapter of Audubon. Alison has been a staunch advocate for the environmental protection of Kern County and this planet preferring to quietly affect policy through education. Her own website www.natureali.org provides an encyclopedia of free information on the natural history of Kern County and nature...wherever her wanderings find her and her ever present camera!



Chrystal Klabunde

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS...for the latest Information on field trips being planned for November, check the website:

www.kernaudubonsociety.org or call Ted Murphy (325-0307).

JANUARY 17, 2009 FIELD TRIP to the Morro Bay Bird Festival...see p. 5 inside!

KERN AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

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HOLIDAY AUCTION...One of our most fun events of the year is the annual December HOLIDAY gathering. , which will be Tuesday December 2nd, 6:30pm Besides lots of delicious food and a great program featuring nature photographer Josh Bradley, there will be an AUCTION (both silent & bidding-style). Help is needed to collect items for the sale. Please consider asking for donations from your favorite restaurant, hair salon, boutique, non-profit organization (such as a guest membership), etc. Contact Dawn Bradley for a form that you can give acknowledging donation and Kern Audubon's status as a 501c3. You can reach Dawn at 393-0498 or dbradley@secor.com.

Besides donations from vendors, we will need other items for the auction, so plan now to donate new or gently -used gift items or something you have hand-crafted! Also, please provide a description of the item(s) for the sale and contact Dawn with information about your donation!

We thank Joseph V. Higbee for the Audubon's Warbler photo used as the newsletter logo. Used by permission. (www.pbase.com/jvhigbee)

Websites to check out...

Kern Birding For a comprehensive website about numerous Kern County birding locations go to www.natureali.org/birding.htm.

Kern County Bird Sightings/photos

What's unusual in Kern County birding? Go to kerncobirding@yahoogroups.com for recent bird sightings, reports by Bob Barnes, Mike McQuerry, Alison Sheehy, pictures by Ken Kyle and others.

www.Audubon-ca.org is a great website all about the activities and organization of Audubon California

AUDUBON IN THE NEWS - To find out more about Audubon happenings around the country, you can receive an informative electronic newsletter. Just email chapterleaders@audubon.org

Remember to check out Kern Audubon's own website.....**www.kernaudubonsociety.org**

E-WARBLER If you would like to receive the *Audubon Warbler* by email instead of hardcopy, send an e-mail to tmurphy@bak.rr.com. Save some trees!

Sign up today to receive **Audubon ACTION ALERT** online! Using Audubon's simple, online action tools, you can influence decision makers on important Audubon conservation priorities.

Audubon California:

<http://audubonaction.org/California/join.html>

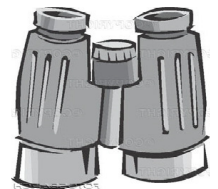
National Audubon Society:

<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html>

TUESDAY BIRDERS MEET 3RD TUES.

Tues. NOVEMBER 18th will be the next outing of the *Tuesday Birders*.

Contact Brenda Kyle (871-4867) for information about time and place to meet. All birders are welcome!



NEST CAMS...If you are interested in watching nesting behavior and the fledging of birds, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has many live and archived "nest cam" videos. Eight species are chronicled, including barn owl, Western & Eastern Bluebird, starling, etc To watch videos, go to www.nestcams.org.

**CENTRAL VALLEY
BIRDING SYMPOSIUM**

NOV. 20-23, 2008
Stockton, CA

The 12th annual Central Valley Birding Symposium, hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club, will feature field trips and programs for all range of birders. Excellent speakers include Hans Peeters (owls), John Muir Laws (nature artist & naturalist), Jon Dunn (editor of Nat'l Geographic's *Field Guide To North American Birds*), Joe Morlan (raptor expert), and others. There will be a Birder's Market full of artists and vendors with bird and nature related items, plus field trips. The symposium is for the new birder as well as the experienced! For more information go to <http://cvbs.org> or contact Cheryl : cpillsbury@softcom.net.



RAFFLE PRIZES are welcomed for the monthly Kern Audubon meeting fund-raiser. Bring a wildlife-related article or something special to share at the next meeting!...If you would like to help provide REFRESHMENTS, contact our Hospitality Coordinator Kathy Love (589-6245)...she'll love you!

San Diego Bird Festival- March 5-8, 2009....David Allen Sibley is the featured speaker at this annual celebration of one of the birdiest places in the US! For information go to sandiegoaudubon.org and click on Bird Festival.

BIRD BOOK & CALENDARS

AUDUBON CALENDARS ARE BACK!

Once again we will be selling **Audubon Calendars** as a chapter fund-raiser, so plan to purchase your copies at the November & December meetings. These beautifully photographed 2009 calendars are "wall-style" and one engagement book style and are \$12 each. There are different "species" of calendars to choose from:

Songbirds
Nature
Raptors
Wildflowers
Birding Trails

For more information, contact Harry & Kathy Love (love3@bak.rr.com or call: 589-6245).

**BACKYARD BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA:
HOW TO ATTRACT THE TOP 25 BIRDS**

This is a newly-published book that will be available at the next meeting of Kern Audubon. The 100 page book includes a profiled bird scale for easy identification, range and distribution maps, color photographs and specific descriptions, including identification marks, behavior, habitat and nesting style. There are also articles by author Bill Fenimore on creating backyard bird sanctuaries, tips on feeders and water features, vegetation, etc.

The book will be selling for \$10 and is especially good for beginning birders! For more information, contact Madi (322-7470, madielsea@aol.com).

**Calendars & Books make great GIFTS
and a terrific way to support your local
Audubon chapter!!**

Looking ahead to TUES. DECEMBER 2ND--6:30PM for the third annual *HOLIDAY DINNER & AUCTION*...Enjoy great food (potluck-style, of course!), auction items to bid on, and a fabulous program by JOSH BRADLEY, nature photographer, author, and member of Kern Audubon!

Come Celebrate: Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 16-19, 2009

Join the birds and the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 13th Annual **Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival!** This area of the central coast is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

You can register for the entire festival or join **Kern Audubon for a one-day field trip on Sat. January 17th.** If you'd like to participate in the field trip, we need to know as soon as possible so that reservations can be made in KAS' name. If you are interested, please do the following:

1. Write a check for \$35 to MBWBF (registration fee)
2. Write a check for \$20 to the "Kern Audubon Society" (carpooling costs)
3. Send checks to Ginny Dallas: 11814 Kettering Drive, Bksf. 93312, by **November 8.**
4. Questions? E-mail Ginny vdallas@bak.rr.com or cell 301-8188 home 587-6323

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out the website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. Registration deadline is January 5, 2009 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.



AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY: THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION -- March 15, 16 and 17, 2009 - ASILOMAR CONF. GROUNDS

Chapter leaders and members are invited to attend the Audubon CA Assembly held every 18 months at the Asilomar conference grounds in Pacific Grove. Speakers and workshops will focus on emerging strategies for conservation of birds and their habitat in the 21st Century.

Workshops will include presentations and discussions such as:

- New science capacity at Audubon California that models impacts of climate change on 350 species of California's birds.
- Young conservationists from chapter and center programs discuss the next generation of conservationists.
- New partners in conservation – agreements with unlikely partners such as developers, ranchers, farmers and oil companies are protecting our habitat and changing how corporations do business
- New conflicts and opportunities: water and wildlife, energy and wildlife, global warming and wildlife.
- New landscapes and seascapes: Audubon California maps Important Bird Areas in California creating a new advocacy tool, and adds marine Important Bird Areas
- New strategies for urban conservation – feral cats, tree trimming policies, degraded habitat restoration, outreach to new audiences and other challenges facing many chapters.

Field trips with bird ID workshops include:

- Pelagic and Whale Watching on Monterey Bay
- Condor viewing in Big Sur led by the Ventana Wildlife Society
- Birding at Carmel River Mouth and Point Pinos

Members of Kern Audubon Executive Board will be attending, so contact Ted or Madi for more information. If you register by December 11th, there will be a \$50 savings on the registration fee.

100,000 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUPPORT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

In August, the Bush administration proposed seriously weakening the Endangered Species Act by allowing government agencies like the Department of Transportation and Army Corps of Engineers—most of which do not employ biologists—to assess for themselves whether their proposed projects would jeopardize endangered species or their habitats. Audubon and our partners in conservation waged a strong campaign all summer to ask Congress to stop the Bush administration's endangered species rollback. Our friends on Capitol Hill pushed hard to include language in the Continuing Resolution that would have de-funded the Bush regulatory changes and stopped them in their tracks. In the end, the legislative fix died as part of a compromise to keep the government running by passing the Continuing Resolution.

On the administrative front, Audubon brought the fight to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We filed extensive comments opposing the rule changes. Audubon activists from across the country responded in record numbers to our call for public comments opposing the Bush rollback. In the end, more than 100,000 public comments from members of Audubon and dozens of other conservation groups were submitted in opposition to the weakening of the Endangered Species Act. Thanks for all that you do to make your voice heard for endangered species like the California Condor, the Whooping Crane, and the Florida Scrub Jay!



DUCK STAMPS

Everyone who enjoys watching birds and wants to protect the land that they need can participate in conserving their habitats. It doesn't require a huge amount of time or money--just \$15 a year! For that reasonable amount, birders and other conservationists can purchase an annual MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING & CONSERVATION STAMP, also known as the federal Duck Stamp. Even those who don't hunt can appreciate the valuable

impact of the stamp and this program!

Since 1934, stamp sales have contributed to wetland and grassland conservation. Today, 98cents of every dollar goes into a fund to purchase or lease these habitats. That means more than \$700 million has protected more than 6 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The stamps benefit birders by providing habitat for waterfowl and other species that live in and visit wetlands and grasslands, including dozens of threatened and endangered bird species as well as other wildlife.

Birders can purchase the stamp online at www.usps.com and at your local US Post Office. If you are a collector, go to www.duckstamps.com for past California duck stamp editions as well as duck stamps from all the states.

The Duck Stamp offers one of the easiest ways for birders and those who enjoy other wildlife to protect habitat. Plus, by showing the stamp at national wildlife refuges, entrance is free!

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Kern Audubon Society
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385



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www.kernaudubonsociety.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join KERN AUDUBON for these activities...

- Tues. November 4th - ELECTION DAY
- _____

Membership Application -- KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY (7XCHC30)

If you would like to be part of a grass-roots conservation organization with a distinguished history, join the National Audubon Society and Kern Audubon! Please complete the form below and send with your check !

Membership includes *Audubon Magazine* (6 Issues) and the *Audubon's Warbler*. (11 issues)

____ New Member \$20 ____ Renewal \$35

Make check payable to **National Audubon Society**

Send check & form to ...Kern Audubon
PO Box 3581
Bakersfield CA 93385

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation for the work of Kern Audubon in the amount of _____. (**Check payable to Kern Audubon**)

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____